



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

JUNE 29, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
FOUR KC MEN SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL FIREARMS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that four Kansas City, Mo., men were sentenced in federal court today, in separate and unrelated cases, for illegally possessing firearms. Today's sentencings, Graves said, are a result of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

* **Mario A. Thibeaux**, 31, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan this morning to five years and three months in federal prison without parole.

On March 31, 2005, **Thibeaux** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Thibeaux** admitted that he was in possession of a Savage Arms 12-gauge sawed-off shotgun on July 24, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Thibeaux** has a 2001 criminal felony conviction for sale of a controlled substance, a 2000 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance and a 1991 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance.

Thibeaux was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Sept. 10, 2004, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rudolph R. Rhodes, IV. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Danyell R. Jones**, 30, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to four years and nine months in federal prison without parole.

On Jan. 11, 2005, **Jones** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Jones** admitted that he was in possession of a Raven Arms .25-caliber semi-automatic handgun on Jan. 23, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Jones** has a 2003 criminal felony conviction for resisting arrest and a 1995 criminal felony conviction for sexual assault.

Jones was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Aug. 13, 2004, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Stefan C. Hughes. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Andrew Brown**, 41, of Kansas City, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to three years and one month in federal prison without parole.

On Feb. 7, 2005, **Brown** waived his right to a grand jury and pleaded guilty to a federal information charging him with being a felon in possession of a firearm.

By pleading guilty, **Brown** admitted that he was in possession of an Italian-made .22-caliber four-shot derringer pistol on Jan. 13, 2005. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Brown** has 2004, 1999 and 1998 criminal felony convictions for possession of a controlled substance.

This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Stefan C. Hughes. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Jeremy D. Knowles**, 27, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to two years in federal prison without parole.

On March 2, 2005, **Knowles** pleaded guilty to being an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Knowles** admitted that he was in possession of a Smith and Wesson .38-caliber revolver on Nov. 22, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any addict or user of a controlled substance to be in possession of a firearm. At the time he possessed the firearm, **Knowles** was an unlawful user of methamphetamine, Graves said.

Knowles was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Dec. 15, 2004, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Stefan C. Hughes. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow